



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Office of Legal Counsel

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Colonel James M. Manni
Director, Department of Public Safety
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

Paul L. Andrews, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel
Department of Public Safety

April 23, 2019

Sovereign Bodies Institute

RE: Public Records Request – “Basic information on all cases (open and closed) of missing American Indian/Alaska Native persons (including juveniles) within the state, from 2000 through 2019”

Dear Sir/Madam:

This office is in receipt of your Public Record Request of April 13, 2019 (received April 15, 2019) wherein you are seeking the above-referenced information from the Rhode Island State Police. Your request is governed by the Access to Public Records Act contained in R.I.G.L. Chapter 38-2. In response to a request for public records, an agency is required to make available for public disclosure those records that are responsive to a request, are in the possession of the agency and are not otherwise exempted from disclosure.

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-4, please be advised that there is a search/retrieval fee of \$15.00 per hour (with the first hour free), along with a per page fee of .15 and/or fee for CDs of \$3.00 each. At this time, we estimate the time expended to be four (4) hours or more to compile and prepare responsive information. The per page/CD fee can-not yet be determined and is not included in this estimate. At this time, we are estimating a fee of \$45.00 to process this request and are seeking your authorization to proceed. We are willing to compile the information and bill you afterward with your agreement to pay the fees. Should actual cost exceed the estimated pre-payment amount, we will contact you at that time to advise before proceeding. Likewise, should the estimate exceed actual search, retrieval, and copying, the fee owed will be adjusted accordingly.

Please be advised that payment does not guarantee that the records you have requested constitute public records (in whole or in part, i.e., redacted), but only authorizes this Department to conduct its search and retrieval to determine if responsive records exist, and if so, whether they are public records.

Additionally, the time for this Department to respond is hereby extended an additional twenty (20) business days as set forth in R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-7(b) due to the difficulty of search and retrieval. As grounds for this extension, the Department will need to re-assign an individual to perform the search and retrieval of potential report numbers and then each report will need to be reviewed to determine whether each report is responsive and releasable. Notwithstanding this extension, the time period for this Department to respond to your request is also tolled as of the date of this letter pending your authorization to proceed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Andrews, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel